



Annual Audit Compliance Report Form

Environmental Protection Act 1986, Part V Division 3

Once completed, please submit this form either via email to info@dwer.wa.gov.au, or to the below postal address:

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
Locked Bag 10
Joondalup DC WA 6919

Section A – Licence details			
Licence number:	L6870/1993/12	Licence file number:	NWK2029-02
Licence holder name:	Shire of East Pilbara		
Trading as:	Shire of East Pilbara		
ACN:			
Registered business address:	PMB Box 22 Newman WA 6753		
Reporting period:	01 / 09 / 2023 to 31 / 08 / 2024		

Section B – Statement of compliance with licence conditions
Did you comply with all of your licence conditions during the reporting period? (please tick the appropriate box)
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes – please complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none">section C;section D (if required); andsign the declaration in Section F.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – please complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none">section C;section D (if required);section E; andsign the declaration in Section F.

Section C – Statement of actual production	
Provide the actual production quantity for this reporting period. Supporting documentation is to be attached.	
Prescribed premises category	Actual production quantity
54	589.44 ML

Section D – Statement of actual Part 2 waste discharge quantity	
Provide the actual Part 2 waste discharge quantity for this reporting period. Supporting documentation is to be attached.	
Prescribed premises category	Actual Part 2 waste discharge quantity
54	589.44 ML

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	01	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2023
Details of non-compliance:			
Vegetation has grown in and around the Treated Effluent Holding Pond, during the entire reporting period.			
What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance?			
NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.			
Non-compliance due to vegetation grown in the treated water does not have any actual or suspected environmental impact.			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
Filamentous Green Algae has grown in the Treated Effluent Holding Pond as a result of the nutrient levels in the water and the change of temperature between seasons. Analysis of samples were unable to determine the species, however, the algae genus was confirmed as Microspora. Typical Algaecide is being sprayed regularly to reduce growth and had been effective for a short span of time. Algaecide has not been entirely effective in dealing with the 'bloom', so alternative treatment options are being investigated.			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			
No such adverse effects from the non-compliance have been observed, to manage the non-compliance samples of algae have been analysed and genes determined as Microspora.			
External consultants have been unable to determine the best means of removal of the growth. Algaecide has proven ineffective to eradicate vegetation, the use of diatoms is now being investigated. The consultant has confirmed that algae pose no direct health and safety or environmental risk.			
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, and			
<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally		Date: / /	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing		Date: 23 / 03 / 2023	

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	05	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2023
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>Discharge of surplus treated effluent to a managed wetland area. Usually, the treated effluent is utilised for Shire’s irrigation supplies, however, when there is not sufficient irrigation demand to utilise the entire volume of treated effluent (Class A irrigation water), the remaining volume is discharged to the BHP wetland area. It should be noted that the wastewater treatment plant was designed by BHP in 1981 with the wetland created as a discharge point. Excluding the wetland from the plants process disrupts the operation and the plant is unable to function effectively. This activity was first recommended by the DEP (now EPA) in 2002 and is in accordance with DEP approval dated 4 December 2002. The Shire applied to DWER for a licence amendment to discharge treated effluent to the BHP Wetland in October 2020.</p> <p>Shire received a new administrative Licence Renewal issued for twenty-year duration on 28/07/2023 (L6870/1993/13). The licence allows discharge of up to 0.5 ML per day of wastewater treated to the Emergency Discharge Point. Additionally, in the event of an emergency, the licence holder may discharge up to 2 ML per day of treated wastewater to the Emergency Discharge Point for a period or cumulative periods not exceeding one month per annual period in accordance with notification condition 18.</p> <p>Following the Shire submission of the application for a licence amendment the daily incoming volume significantly increased. As such more than 0.5 ML per day was discharged to the BHP Wetland during the reporting period. It has been calculated that during the reporting period an average of 0.65 ML per day was discharged to the BHP Wetland for the reporting period September 2023 to August 2024.</p> <p>Major upgrade works to the WWTP and recycled water network infrastructure are progressing, with the procurement of a detailed design and construction Contractor underway for the WWTP (in line with approved by DWER in 2024), and hydraulic assessment and design works underway for the recycled water network, to facilitate continued operation and cessation of discharge to the Emergency Discharge Point by 2027.</p>			
What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance?			
NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.			
Non-compliance has previously been advised and is known and acknowledged by DWER. Due to the water quality being produced, the Shire does not believe there has been any actual or suspected environmental impact from this non-compliance.			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
The increase in incoming wastewater entering and exceeding the plant design limit of 2 ML per day, and limited discharge capacity through the recycled water network infrastructure.			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition

All discharged water is treated effluent which is applied at specified locations in Newman for irrigation purposes under the DoH WA Recycled Water Scheme F-M-00769/D58 and is high quality (Class A) treated effluent irrigation water. If out of quality water is discharged the Shire will complete an S72 and send that to DWER at the time the discharge takes place. This did not occur during the reporting period. Additionally, the BHP Wetland receives the same Class A quality treated effluent and is restricted to the public and therefore, does not pose a health or safety risk.

Shire has investigated the options to increase storage on- and off-site which are included in the WWTP upgrade works and increase the irrigation capacity of the recycled water network to use the total of the treated effluent. This is being completed in conjunction with the WWTP upgrade.

Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?

Yes, and

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally	Date: 27 / 07 / 2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing	Date: 23 / 03 / 2002

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	05	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2023
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>Discharge of surplus treated effluent to a managed BHP Wetland. Usually, the treated effluent is utilised for Shire’s irrigation supplies, however, when there is not sufficient irrigation demand to utilise the entire volume of treated effluent (Class A irrigation water), the remaining volume is discharged to the BHP Wetland. It should be noted that the WWTP was designed by BHP in 1981 with the wetland created as a discharge point. Excluding the wetland from the plant’s process disrupts the operation and the WWTP is unable to function effectively.</p> <p>This activity was first recommended by the DEP in 2002 and is in accordance with DEP approval dated 4 December 2002. The Shire applied to DWER for a licence amendment to discharge treated effluent to the BHP Wetland in October 2020.</p> <p>The Shire received a new administrative Licence Renewal issued for twenty-year duration on 28/07/2023 (L6870/1993/13). The licence allows discharge of up to 0.5 ML per day of wastewater treated to the Emergency Discharge Point. Additionally, in the event of an emergency, the licence holder may discharge up to 2 ML per day of treated wastewater to the Emergency Discharge Point for a period or cumulative periods not exceeding one month per annual period in accordance with notification condition 18.</p> <p>Following the Shire’s submission of the application for a licence amendment, the daily incoming volume significantly increased. As such, more than 0.5 ML was discharged to the BHP Wetland during the reporting period. It has been calculated that during the reporting period an average of 0.65 ML per day was discharged to the BHP Wetland for the reporting period September 2023 to August 2024.</p> <p>Major upgrade works to the WWTP and recycled water network infrastructure are progressing, with the procurement of a detailed design and construction Contractor underway for the WWTP (in line with approved by DWER in 2024), and hydraulic assessment and design works underway for the recycled water network, to facilitate continued operation and cessation of discharge to the Emergency Discharge Point by 2027.</p>			
<p>What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance?</p> <p>NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.</p>			
<p>Non-compliance has previously been advised and is known and acknowledged by DWER. Due to the water quality being produced, the Shire does not believe there has been any actual or suspected environmental impact from this non-compliance.</p>			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
<p>The increase in incoming wastewater entering and exceeding the WWTP design limit of 2 ML/Day, and limited discharge capacity through the recycled water network infrastructure.</p>			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition	
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.	
<p>All discharged water is treated effluent which is applied at specified locations in Newman for irrigation purposes under the DoH WA Recycled Water Scheme F-M-00769/D58 and is high quality (Class A) treated effluent irrigation water. If out of quality water is discharged the Shire will complete an S72 and send that to DWER at the time the discharge takes place. This did not occur during the reporting period. Additionally, the BHP Wetland receives the same Class A quality treated effluent and is restricted to the public and therefore, does not pose a health or safety risk.</p> <p>The Shire has investigated the options to increase storage on- and off-site which are included in the WWTP upgrade works and increase the irrigation capacity of the recycled water network to use the total of the treated effluent. This is being completed in conjunction with the WWTP upgrade.</p>	
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, and	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally	Date: 27 / 07 / 2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing	Date: 23 / 03 / 2002

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	06	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2023
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>Discharge of surplus treated effluent to a managed BHP wetland. Usually, the treated effluent is utilised for Shire’s irrigation supplies, however, when there is not sufficient irrigation demand to utilise the entire volume of treated effluent (Class A irrigation water), the remaining volume is discharged to the BHP Wetland. It should be noted that the WWTP was designed by BHP in 1981 with the wetland created as a discharge point. Excluding the wetland from the plant’s process disrupts the operation and the WWTP is unable to function effectively. This activity was first recommended by the DEP in 2002 and is in accordance with DEP approval dated 4 December 2002.</p> <p>The Shire applied to DWER for a licence amendment to discharge treated effluent to the BHP Wetland area in October 2020.</p> <p>The Shire received a new administrative Licence Renewal issued for twenty-year duration on 28/07/2023 (L6870/1993/13). The licence allows discharge of up to 0.5 ML per day of wastewater treated to the Emergency Discharge Point. Additionally, in the event of an emergency, the licence holder may discharge up to 2 ML per day of treated wastewater to the Emergency Discharge Point for a period or cumulative periods not exceeding one month per annual period in accordance with notification condition 18.</p> <p>Following the Shire’s submission of the application for a licence amendment the daily incoming volume significantly increased. As such, more than 0.5 ML was discharged to the BHP Wetland during the reporting period. It has been calculated that during the reporting period an average of 0.65 ML per day was discharged to the BHP Wetland for the reporting period September 2023 to August 2024.</p> <p>Major upgrade works to the WWTP and recycled water network infrastructure are progressing, with the procurement of a detailed design and construction Contractor underway for the WWTP (in line with approved by DWER in 2024), and hydraulic assessment and design works underway for the recycled water network, to facilitate continued operation and cessation of discharge to the Emergency Discharge Point by 2027.</p>			
<p>What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance?</p> <p>NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.</p>			
<p>Non-compliance has previously been advised and is known and acknowledged by DWER. The Shire does not believe there has been any actual or suspected environmental impact from this non-compliance.</p>			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
<p>The increase in incoming wastewater entering the WWTP, and limited discharge capacity through the recycled water network.</p>			

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition	
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.	
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:	
<p>All discharged water is treated effluent which is applied at specific locations in Newman for irrigation purposes under the DoH WA Recycled Water Scheme F-M-00769/D58 and is high quality (Class A) treated effluent irrigation water. If out of quality water is discharged the Shire will complete an S72 and send that to DWER at the time the discharge takes place. This did not occur during the reporting period. Additionally, the BHP Wetland receives the same Class A quality treated effluent and is restricted to the public and therefore, does not pose a health or safety risk.</p> <p>The Shire has investigated the options to increase storage on- and off-site which are included in the WWTP upgrade works and increase the irrigation capacity of the recycled water network to use the total of the treated effluent. This is being completed in conjunction with the WWTP upgrade. The Shire will progress the treated effluent diversion(s), to meet the licence condition to cease discharge to the BHP Wetlands by the 31 December 2027.</p>	
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, and	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally	Date: 27 / 07 / 2021
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing	Date: 23 / 03 / 2002

Section E – Details of non-compliance with licence condition			
Please use a separate page for each condition with which the licence holder was non-compliant at a time during the reporting period.			
Condition no:	12	Date(s) of non-compliance:	September 2023
Details of non-compliance:			
<p>There is no suitable device for measuring monthly cumulative volumes of effluent discharged to the BHP Wetland. The volume is currently assumed to be the difference between the inflow volume and the discharge to the Shire’s Recycled Water Scheme Irrigation areas.</p> <p>There is no suitable device for measuring monthly cumulative volumes of effluent discharged from the WWTP to the BHP Wetland. Cumulative effluent discharge volumes discharged to the Newman Recycled Water Network are measured with a suitable device (flowmeter). However, effluent discharge volumes to the BHP Wetland are determined by calculating the difference between the WWTP incoming flows and the effluent discharged to the Recycled Water Network irrigation points. This calculation does not consider other factors such as evaporation or added precipitation.</p>			
<p>What was the actual (or suspected) environmental impact of the non-compliance?</p> <p>NOTE – please attach maps or diagrams to provide insight into the precise location of where the non-compliance took place.</p>			
<p>Non-compliance has previously been advised and is known and acknowledged by DWER. The Shire does not believe there has been any actual or suspected environmental impact from this non-compliance.</p>			
Cause (or suspected cause) of non-compliance:			
Ambiguity in Licence condition. Interpretation of what is deemed a 'suitable device'.			
Action taken to mitigate any adverse effects of non-compliance and prevent recurrence of the non-compliance:			
A suitable device for measuring monthly cumulative volumes will be incorporated to the WWTP upgrade design, which the Shire is currently procuring a detailed design and construction Contractor.			
Was this non-compliance previously reported to DWER?			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, and			
<input type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER verbally		Date:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reported to DWER in writing		Date: 23 / 03 / 2023	

Section F – Declaration

<p>I / We declare that the information in this Annual Audit Compliance Report is true and correct and is not false or misleading in a material particular¹.</p> <p>I / We consent to the Annual Audit Compliance Report being published on the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’s (DWER) website.</p>
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Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Signature ² :		Signature:	
Name: (printed)		Name: (printed)	
Position:	Manager Waste Services	Position:	Coordinator Waste Water
Date:	07/02/2025	Date:	07/02/2025
Seal (if signing under seal):			

¹ It is an offence under section 112 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1986* for a person to give information on this form that to their knowledge is false or misleading in a material particular.

² AACRs can only be signed by the licence holder or an authorised person with the legal authority to sign on behalf of the licence holder.